MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Cullman Baptist Association

HELD WITH

NEW HOME CHURCH,

October 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1899.

R. C. LEDBETTER, Moderator
B. E. JACKSON, Clerk and Treasurer

.. WALTER, ALA.

CONVENES WITH EBENEZER CHURCH SATURDAY BEFORE FOURTH

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1. Devotional Exercises, thirty minutes.
- 2. Introductory Sermon. Adjourn one hour.
- 3. Association called to order by Moderator, or Clerk in the absence of the Moderator. Appoint two reading clerks.
- 4. Call for, read letters and enroll delegates.
- 5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
- 6. Election of Officers.
- 7. Appointment of necessary committees.
- 8. Call for Correspondence.
- 9. Return Correspondence.
- 10. Call for Reports of Committees.
- 11. Appointment of time and place of District Meetings.
- 12. Select place for next Annual Meeting of the Assocition.
- 13. Miscellaneous Business.
- 14. Appointment of Standing Committees.
- 15. Adjourn.

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THE CULLMAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met at 11 o'clock A. M. October 19, 1899.

Introductory sermon by Elder J. E. Bagwell. Adjourned one hour for dinner.

Called to order by the Clerk, the Moderator being absent. Prayer by J. E. Weaver.

J. H. Harbinson was chosen Moderator pro tem.

Called for letters from the churches. Appointed J. E. Weaver, A. M. Preston, and W. Y. Brindley as Reading Clerks. Read the letters and enrolled delegates:

Beech Grove-J. N. Hardman, Nathan Elliott, and W. P. Elliott.

Ryan's Creek—J. H. Freeman and J. H. Harbinson. Bethlehem, West – Leander Smith.

Concord-G. W. Screws and W. H. Walker.

Bethlehem, East-Letter; no delegates.

Fairview—Samuel Patterson and Harvy Edwards.

Sardis—J. E. Hancock, J. T. Hancock, R. P. Doss and W. L. Richardson.

Duck River - C. Bice, J. S. Brown, R. J. Davis, and R. C. Ledbetter.

Welcome—J. M. Cason, W. W. Wells, and J. F. Knop. Missionary Grove—W. J. Woods, J. K. P. Byrum, W. W. Coggins, and A. Mewborn.

Bethsaida—William Bradford, W. R. Pullen, and J. W. Adams.

Good Hope—C. A. Owen, G. W. Hinkle, and G. W. Bragg.

New Harmony-S. W. Noles, W. W. Noles, and J. W. Williams.

West Cullman-Letter; no delegates.

Logan—A. H. Speakman.

Pleasant Grove-Lee Burch and W. T. Bottoms.

Center Hill-I. A. Giles and W. T. Lee.

Emmaus-W. A. Petty and William McWhorter.

Pilgrim's Rest-A. B. Jackson and R. D. Dunlap.

New Home - J. M. Lee, N. H. Hazle, W. D. Eidson.

Bethany-Letter; no delegates.

Ebenezer—John Borders, J. D. Tankersley, J. T. Walker, and J. W. Howard.

First Cullman-A. M. Preston.

Enon-F. W. Krusel, J. M. Holmes.

Hopewell—R. J. Fuller, J. A. Fanning, B. E. Jackson.

Harmony -J. H. Martin, John Elmore.

Cold Springs-J. B. Willoughby, J. S. Moore, and G. W. Dooly.

Called for petitionary letters.

Corinth and Etha's petitionary letters were read and received, and delegates seated. Corinth, H. W. Little, R. A. Rooker; Etha, J. C. Scruggs, John Goodlett; Simcoe, W. Y. Brindley, J. D. Lovelady; Flint Creek, W. A. Laurence.

Proceeded to elect officers for the next year, appointing W. H. Absher, J. C. Whatley and J. E. Weaver to take the vote. Result: R. C. Ledbetter, Moderator: B. E. Jackson, Clerk and Treasurer.

Called for correspondents.

Received from Gilliam's Springs, Elder J. E. Bagwell; from Mussel Shoals, Elder J. E. Weaver, Elder F. C. David, J. P. Scruggs; Warrior River, Elder S. O. Howard, Elder W. H. Absher, Elder J. C. Whatley.

Prayer by C. A. Owen.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING, October 20—8 o'clock.—*Called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by W. H. Absher.

Appointed the following committees: Devotional-A,

B. Jackson, J. S. Brown and Deacons of the New Home church. Finance—R. J. Fuller, A. B. Jackson, J. A. Fanning. Colportage—A. M. Preston. William Bradford. J. M. Lee. Document and Nominations+W. W. Coggins. J. N. Hardman, J. D. Tankersley. Queries—R. D. Dunlap. W. T. Lee, C. A. Owen. Deceased Ministers—J. A. Fanning. J. H. Harbinson, J. K. P. Byrum. Orphan's Home—J. S. Brown, A. H. Speakman, J. E. Hancock. State of Religion—W. Y. Brindley, F. W. Krusel, J. H. Freeman.

Appointed committees to report next meeting: Ministerial Education—H. W. Little, W. L. Richardson, C. Bice. Temperance—J. H. Harbinson, J. A. Fanning, A. B. Speakman. Missions—C. A. Owen, A. M. Preston, W. G. Brown. Sunday School—C. C. Whaley, W. A. Taylor, J. M. Bottoms.

Appointed correspondents: Warrior River-R. C. Ledbetter, J. A. Fanning, A. B. and B. E. Jackson. Mussel Shoals-C. A. Owen, R. P. Doss, J. H. Harbinson, R. C. Ledbetter, J. C. Scruggs. Gilliam Springs-J. M., Lec, A. M, Preston. S. W. Noles. Sulphur Springs-J. H. Freeman, C. A. Owen, H. W. Little, R. P. Doss. Clear Creek-H. W. Little, A. H. Speakman, J. H. Freeman.

Report on temperance read, and after discussion was adopted.

Adjourned for preaching to 1:30 o'clock. Sermon by Elder F. C. David, at 11 o'clock. Text: Hebrews. 6:1.

Called to order at 1:30 o'clock by Moderator. Prayer by C. A. Owen.

Report on Ministerial Education read, and after discussion was adopted.

Ordered that all speeches be limited to five minutes.

Report on Sunday Schools read and tabled until Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

Report on Institute Work read, discussed and adopted. Ordered that we hold an institute between now and the end of the year at Good Hope. Continued the Committee on Institute Work.

Prayer by H. W. Little.

Adjourned to 8:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING—8:30 o'clock—Association called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by G. W. Bragg.

Report of Executive Board read. After being discussed was amended and adopted.

Report on State of Religion was read, discussed and adouted.

Report on Missions was read, discussed at length, and adopted.

Adjourned for preaching to 1:30 o'clock.

Missionary sermon at 11 o'clock by C. A. Owen. Text: The Commission.

Association called to order at 1:30 o'clock by Moderator. Prayer by W. J. Woods.

Report on Colportage work read, discussed and adopted. Report on Deceased Ministers read: held a memorial service in memory of Bro, J. A. Basham. A collection was taken for Sister Basham: amount. 87.77. Report adopted.

Report read on Orphan's Home and adopted.

Report on Documents and Nominations read and adopted.

Finance Report read and adopted.

Appointed District meetings: First, Duck River, on Friday before fifth Sunday in December, 1899: Second, Logan, on Friday before fifth Sunday in March, 1900: Third, Beech Grove, on Friday before fifth Sunday in June. 1900: Fourth, Flint Creek, on Friday before fifth Sunday in September, 1900.

Continued the Executive Committee and added A. M. Preston and J. S. Brown to it. Changed the time of the

meeting of this body from Thursday to Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October.

Prayer by J. E. Weaver.

Adjourned to 8:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

Sunday Morning--Called to order at 8:30 o'clock by Moderator. Prayer by William Teague.

Appointed delegates to State Convention: W.G. Brown, W. A. Guthrie, A. M. Preston, C. A. Owen, B. E. Jackson, L. Mullens, R. C. Ledbetter.

Elected J. H. Harbinson delegate to Sonthern Baptist Convention; L. Mullens, alternate,

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt thanks to New Home Church and community for their kind hospitality during our stay among them.

Ordered the Treasurer to turn over money for F. M., S. M. and Orphan's Home to J. E. Weaver: Institute work to F. C. David,

Ordered that the Home Mission money be used in paying our Colporter.

Ordered that the Clerk be paid \$10 for his services.

Report on Sunday School taken from table, re-read, discussed and adopted.

Ordered that the collection to-day be used in defraying the expenses of our delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Report of Treasurer read and adopted.

Read and adopted the minutes.

Adjourned to meet with Ebenezer Church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1900.

Eld. J. E. Weaver preached at 11 o'clock.

R. C. LEDBETTER, Moderator.

B. E. Jackson, Clerk.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On Missions.

. The cause of missions should be with us of all absorbing interest. Men the world over are brethren, and those without the gospel are lost brethren. Their only hope of salvation is to be found in the gospel. In order that they may hear it, it must be sent them. Our fathers prayed that the gates of the nations be opened. Their prayers have been answered, and today there is no lack of applications of consecrated men and women to be sent to the perishing. Undoubtedly our greatest need in the prosecution of mission work is money. In this connection let it be remembered that we are trustees, and as such we are laden with obligations that we must meet if we ourselves escape evil and loss. By all that we see and hear, we feel that we are called to earnest prayer and liberality in contributions for missions. We find that Alabama from May 1, 1898, to May 1, 1899, contributed for missions \$21,350.15. divided as follows: State missions, \$10,245.84; Home missions, \$5,214.42; Foreign missions, \$5,889.89. Of this amount the Cullman association reported at its last session only \$44.42. That nearly two thousand in our association should give such a meagre sum for the world's deliverance from the bondage of sin and death, is a matter of profound regret. That a large per cent of our churches, two-thirds of our membership, would never make any effort for the spreading of the gospel of Christ, is a reproach to our association. What we need is a system of contribution in all our churches by which every member can be reached. We need more preaching on the subject of missions by our pastors, and a regular system of collection, and fervent prayers that God will prosper the work of spreading the gospel in all the lands.

Respectfully submitted:

B. E. JACKSON.

On Institute Work.

We report: In the wisdom of our State Convention the Ministers' Institute work has been inaugurated in the State, the object of which is to help our ministry on the field, who cannot reach the schools, nor the schools reach them. There never was a time in our recollection when our preachers and pastors need to come together, get better acquainted with each other, learn to love each other more. The institute work has for its object all these things, and especially to enable our earnest, hardworking pastors on the field, who have not had the advantage of the schools to better fortify themselves for their great life work. Instruction is given in these institutes by lectures on sermon building, and on the doctrines as held by Baptists, and the enterprises fostered by the denomination in the State. The main feature in the lectures is to teach how to get the matter out of the text. The institutes held in the State this year have reached about 170 of our needy preachers. We recommend that our ministers appoint an institute at some church in our bounds and confer with Brother G. S. Anderson, Auburn. Alabama, as to when he can hold it. Also that we urge our churches to contribute means to help on in this good and important work. Respectfully. C. A. OWENS, Chairman.

On Ministerial Education,

We submit the following: Education is necessary in every department and occupation of life, and we feel that we are wanting in the ministry as well as laity. Our church is inactive in duty for want of education on that line, and we will make slow progress in educating our preachers until our churches co-operate in this important work. We see from the letters but little interest manifested on this subject. Under the law we find the parents were required to learn the Law of the Lord and teach it to their children, that their children's children might know the Lord. Our Lord said, "Teach all nations and baptize them," and teach them to observe all He

had commanded, with a promise He would be with them always. So we see if we tail to do so we are criminals in his sight. Let us have institutes and conferences and teach each other, for we are members one of another; let him that is taught communicate to him that teaches; let us use the opportunities we have to educate ourselves not in books only, but in Christian living. It is truly said that we make our religious duties of secondary matter. Dear Brethren, we can we must—go forward, learn God's will, and what our hands find to do, do with our might.

Respectfully.

C. A. OWESS, Chairman,

Excentive Board.

We report that we met on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in November and organized. Elected J. K. P. Byrum Chairman, H. A. Henderson Secretary and Treasurer. Having no means we recommend that each church be asked to contribute \$5 per member and forward the money to H. A. Henderson, Treasurer, Johnson trossing, as soon as possible. We recommend our Colporter to order his supplies. All the churches failed to respond to the call, with few exceptions, finding only \$7 paid to the Treasurer. We also find that Brother Little has paid of his own money \$12.75, in order to get the literature that he ordered from the express office. We recommend that some steps be taken to compensate him for his services and refund the \$12.75. We have succeeded in the organization of a Sunday School convention, as directed by the Association of 18%:

Respectfully.

J. K. P. Byre M. Chairman. H. A. Henderson, Sec. and Treas.

On Temperance,

We, your committee, offer the following report: The Bible infallible rule of faith and practice teaches temperance in all things, and as a solemn warning declares that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God; and in a further warning we find drunkenness classed with all the grossest works of the flesh, as recorded in I. Corinthians, 6, 10 and 5, 11, and also Galitians 5, 21. We are also admonished in Galitians 6 and 7: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked, for whatsoever man soweth, that shall he also reap." Therefore we arge our churches to take these solemn warnings and teach and practice the same. We furthermore insist that dram-drinking and drunkenness is the devil's best weapon and God's worst enemy.

Respectfully.

J. E. HANCOCK. Chairman.

On Colportage Work.

We report that our Colporter, H. W. Little, was in the field six weeks, the great portion of his work being done on the west side of the railroad. We find that he preached forty sermons, delivered seven Sabbath School lectures, assisted in ordaining five deacons and one elder, and preached two ordination sermons; sold and distributed Bibles for which he paid \$19.75 of his own money, but has about half of the Bibles on hand. He has received of the executive board \$7; balance due him, \$12.75. We regret that our Colporter gave down at Beech Grove Church, and could not finish his work. We recommend that the Executive Board refund the \$12.75 due him, and remunerate him liberally for his time and services. We recommend that the work be continued, and insist that each church bear its pro rata share of the expenses, according to their ability. We feel that this is a great and noble work, and that the Lord will greatly bless us in this work.

Respectfully.

A. M. Presion, Chairman.

On Sunday Schools.

We, your committee, report: We find that Sunday Schools are progressing, and we are glad to find the churches pushing the great work of Sunday Schools, for there is no greater work in the church—for it is the church at work. We find that the Executive Board has organized a convention known as the "Cullman Baptist Sunday School Convention." We are grateful for the effort being made for so great a cause. May God bless the effort. Officers of convention: R. C. Ledbetter, president; H. W. Little, vice-president; J. G. Land, secretary; W. J. Horton, treasure?. We recommend that the convention meet with each fifth Sunday meeting.

Respectfully, H. W. Little, Chairman.

On State of Religion.

We find that the state of religion in some of our churches is good. Some have made reasonable progress, though some of the churches have neither prayer meeting or Sunday school. Howcan we in such negligence expect to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth? We recommend, therefore, that we severally and collectively pray for an increase of courage and strength to go forward in His cause and the advancement of His kingdom. We find that there have been some good revivals in destitute places.

W. Y. BRIDDLEY, Chairman.

On Documents and Nominations,

There being two churches that called for the association, we recommend that the association meet with Ebenezer church, it being one of the oldest, and never having the body to meet with them—W. M. Smith to preach the introductory sermon, J. M. Bottoms alternate; R. P. Doss to preach the missionary sermon, J. H. Harbinson alternate, at our next session. Respectfully, W. W. Coggins, Chairman.

On Orphan's Home.

We report that we are glad some of our churches have contributed to this great and noble cause. We do earnestly request each church to take this cause under consideration and contribute more liberaly. We do earnestly request each pastor to educate their churches on this line of duty. Respectfully.

J. S. BROWN, Chairman.

On Deceased Ministers.

We report that in the death of Brother J. A. Basham we have lost one of our most devoted Christians and best ministers, a kind husband and a loving father. While we bow with humble submission to the Divine will, yet we deeply feel our great loss, and deeply sympathize with his bereaved family. Therefore we recommend that special memorial services be held at this time in his memory.

Respectfully,

Respectfully,

J. A. FANNING, Chairman

R. J. FULLER, Chairman,

On Finance.

| We, the Finance committee, report as follows: | | |
|--|------|----|
| Received for Minutes | | |
| Received for Indefinite Missions Received for State Missions | | 65 |
| | | |
| Received for Home Missions | | |
| Received for Foreign Missions | 16 | 11 |
| Received for Orphan's Home | () | 10 |
| Received for Indigent Ministers Received for Institute work | | 50 |
| Received for Institute work | | 50 |
| T | 22.5 | |
| Total | 280 | 28 |

TREASURER'S REPORT.

| Received from Finance Comm | nittee Paid out - | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Foreign missions | \$16 H J. E. Weaver, Foreign missions | \$16 | 11 |
| Homs missions | 12 03 Same, State missions | 18 | 34 |
| | . 15/54 Same, Orphan's home | .5 | 35 |
| Orphan's home | 5 35 F. C. David, Institute work | 12 | ()() |
| Minutes | 29 45 H. W. Little, Colporter | | 03 |
| Public collection | 10/28 G. W. Bragg, Sister Basham | 7 | 77 |
| Institute work | 1 72 | | - |
| Collection for Sister Basham . | . 7 77 Total . | \$68 | |
| Indigent ministers | 5(1 | ()() | 95 |
| Collection Sunday | 1 20 | | |
| | Balance on hand | \$31 | 20 |
| Total | . 899-95 | | |
| Re | spectfully, B. E. Jackson, Trea- | Surer. | |

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

| | S |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Adams, Hanceville, | R. M. Presley, Cullman, |
| T. E. Hayes, Hanceville, | W. M. Smith, Bremen. |
| T. J. Weeks, Cullman. | G. W. Bragg, Trimble. |
| W. H. McSwain, Cullman, | J. H. Harbinson, Bremen, |
| C. A. Owens, Cullman, | J. H. Freeman, Wheat, |
| R. P. Doss, Trimble, | G. J. Moon, Bremen, |
| G. L. Brindley, Simcoe, | P. R. Tenerson, Holly Pone |
| I. J. Helmes, Hanceville, | H.D. Rainwater, Crooked C |
| L. Mullens, Cullman, | G. W. Chandler, Johnson. |
| W. H. Guthrie, Logan. | A. Mewborn, Cullman, |
| C. J. Holloway, Logan. | P. M. Musgrove, Cullman, |
| R. C. Ledbetter, Walter, | C. B. Wilhite, Falkville, |
| H. W. Little, Clifty. | J. H. Dunlap, Cullman, |
| J. M. Bottoms, Logan, | • |
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LICENTIATES.

| J. T. Brown, Walter, | N. D. Mayo, Marshal, |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| G. W. Noles, Summit. | G. W. Watts, Holly Pond, |
| N. H. Hazle, Summit, | P. M. Bland, Cullman, |
| R. A. Rooker, Crooked Cr. | W. J. Woods, Cullman, |
| Harvey Edwards, Hanceville | .S. L. Butler. Cullman. |

MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATIONS.

Cullman-Ebenezer, Skturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1899, Cull-

man county.

Mussel Shoals—Thursday before first Sunday in October, 1900, at Flint Station.

Sulphur Spring—Friday before second Sunday in October, 1900, with Pisgah.

Walker county.

Marshal-Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1900, near Albertville.

Marshalcounty.

Warrior River-Friday before third Sunday in October, 1900, with Cleveland church. Blount county.

Clear Creek-Friday before first Sunday in October, 1900.

| | Preaching Sabbaths | 0, 14 | |
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| | Present Member- ship | \$\$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ | tlol SI |
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| | CLERK'S POSTOFFICE | | |
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| | PASTOR | W. Bragge W. Head B. Banwater E. Hays B. Hays M. Smith W. Head A. Perkins W. Little C. Ledbetter H. Absher H. Absher H. Absher H. Absher H. Mennedy C. Ledbetter C. Ledbetter W. Schlipps C. Ledbetter C. Ledbetter C. Ledbetter W. Mullen H. Absher W. Mullen W. Mullen H. Absher W. Mullen W. Mullen H. Absher W. Mullen H. Absher W. Mullen H. Absher W. Mullen H. Absher W. Mullen | |
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FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CULLMAN ASSOCIATION FOR YEAR 1899.

| Total | El Bethel | Welcome. | Wast Collinson | Sardis | Ryan's Creek | Pleasant Grove. | Pilgrim & Rost | Discing's Part | New Horne | Yew Harmony | Mt. Hope | Missionary Grove | Logan | Hopewell | II at mony. | Mary Trops | Carrie Harris | Plint Creek | First Culman | Fallview | Dalaman | With: | Enimens | Enon | Ebenezer | Duck Kiver | Colling | Celifer states | Cantar Crove | Concord | Cold Springs | Center Hill | Bangor | Rethany | Liegen Grove | Belillenene weer | | Rethlehem, East | Bethsaida | | ентенья. | • |
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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be known as THE CULLMAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, and shall meet annually at such time and place as the Association may appoint.

It shall be composed of the bishops and three messengers from each church in the association.

3. The objects of the association are to promote practical piety in our churches, to extend the redeemer's kingdom on earth; to assist young ministers in preparing for the ministry; to provide for the support of worn-out ministers and the families of deceased ministers that need help.

4. Any Baptist church of our faith and order may by a petitionary letter and messengers become a member of this association by unanimous vote of the body in session—the moderator giving the hand of fellowship to the messengers.

5. That each church in this body will furnish its proportionate part of the means for carrying out the objects of this association set forth in article 3 of this Constitution.

6. This association shall at each session appoint a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. The Moderator shall preside over the body and keep order. The Clerk shall keep correct minutes of the business done by the body. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys put into his hands for associational purposes, pay it out by order of the association, and make annual report of the same.

7. This association will withdraw fellowship from any church that fails to discipline its members, if guilty, for wicked and disorderly conduct, or any other departure from the faith and practice of the gospel.

8. This association shall appoint three quarterly meetings between the sessions of the association. These meetings shall be composed of bishops and deacons in this association, and any members the churches may send. The design of these meetings is to promote unity in faith and practice and the acquirement of religious knowledge.

9. This association shall at each session appoint one of her bishops to preach an introductory sermon, and another one to preach a missionary sermon at the next session of the body. *

10. This association, through its executive board, shall co-operate with the State Mission Board and the Alabama Baptist State Convention in supplying the destitution in our own bounds or elsewhere in this state.

11. This association adopts the articles of faith known as the New Hampshire Confession, found in Crowell's Church Members' Hand-Book.

12. The minutes of each session of this association shall be read, approved and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the association adjourns.

13. This constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this association by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present.

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